

BRIDPORT RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1938

Medical Officer of Health :

ADAM ARMIT, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and District Surveyor :

L. F. A. MADDOCKS, A.M.C.T., A.R.S.I.

CHARTERED ENGINEER.

Possesses Meat Certificate.

Clerk to the Medical Officer :

MISS S. BRANIGAN.

*With
the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.*



Public Health Office,
32, South Street,
BRIDPORT.

June 1939.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
BRIDPORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1938. May I take this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. L F. Maddocks, for his most valuable help, for the assistance given me by the other Officers and for the courtesy shown me by all the Members of the Council.

I am,

Yours Obediently,

ADAM ARMIT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	32,150
Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population, mid-year, 1938	...	...	...	...	6,895
Number of Persons per Acre	...	...	...	...	0.2
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	2,420
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£30,959
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£129

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

This district stretches from Bexington in the East, along the Coast to Lyme Regis in the West, a distance of approximately 15 miles except for a wedge in the middle, of 686.5 acres which constitutes the Area of Bridport Borough. The Rural District extends inland along this length for roughly 3 miles.

The district is divided into 18 Parishes. The most populous village is Charmouth. Agriculture is the chief industry, while the villages along the coast cater for visitors.

VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	f Legitimate	...	71	38	33	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.5
	\ Illegitimate	...	8	4	4	
	Total	...	79	42	37	
Still Births—Total	...	...	4	3	1	Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births 48.19
	Legitimate	...	4	3	1	
	Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	
Deaths...	...	...	115	47	68	Crude Death Rate—16.7
						Comparative Death Rate—12.4
						Comparability Factor—0.74
Deaths from Puerperal causes				0	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age...				...	...	0 2
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	0 2
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0 0
Infantile Death Rate 25.3 per 1,000 live births.						
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	18
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	0

INFANTILE DEATHS

Age		Sex	Cause
1 week	...	F	Atelectasis.
5 months	...	F	Ascites due to Cirrhosis of Liver.

CAUSES OF DEATH

			Males	Females
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	—	—
2	Measles ...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	—	—
6	Influenza ...	...	—	—
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	—	1
8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		1	1
10	Other Tuberculosis ...	...	—	—
11	Syphilis ...	...	1	—
12	G.P.I. Tabes	...	—	1
13	Cancer ...	...	7	11
14	Diabetes ...	...	—	—
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	3	5
16	Heart Disease	...	11	20
17	Aneurysm ...	...	2	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	4	5
19	Bronchitis	...	1	—
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	3	1
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	2	—
23	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	—	2
26	Other Liver Diseases ...	...	—	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	..	—	2
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	3	3
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	...	—	—
31	Con. Debility. Prematurity	...	—	1
32	Senility ...	...	3	6
33	Suicide ...	...	—	2
34	Other Violence	...	1	—
35	Other Defined Diseases	...	5	6
36	Ill Defined or Unknown	...	—	—
37	Diarrhoea over 2 years	...	—	—
Total			47	68
				115

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

			Bridport R.D.	Beaminster R.D.	England & Wales
Birth Rate ...	...	...	11. 6	16. 5	15.61
Death Rate ...	...	...	12.34	10. 8	11. 6
Infantile Death Rate ...	...	...	25. 3	71. 4	53
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	0	0	2.97
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	...	...	0	9. 8	5. 5
Heart Disease ...	Was	the cause of 18%	Total Deaths		
Cancer ...	...	16%	,,		
Other Defined Diseases	...	10%	,,		
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	8%	,,		
Senility ...	...	8%	,,		
Tuberculosis ...	...	1. 7%	,,		

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological work has been carried out at the Southern Counties Laboratory at Bournemouth. The new County Laboratory at Dorchester was opened at the close of the year so that all bacteriological work for this district will be carried out there in future.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These are adequate. Infectious cases are removed to the Isolation Hospital by the ambulance stationed at the Hospital, while non-infectious and accident cases are removed to the Cottage Hospital by the new Hospital ambulance (acquired in April) which is stationed at one of the garages in Bridport. This ambulance belongs to Bridport Hospital.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Dorset County Nursing Association has nurses resident in Bridport Borough, Charmouth and Symondsburry. These nurses are also fully qualified midwives.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

(Under Dorset County Council). Several of the parishes attend a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic held twice monthly, and also the Orthopaedic Clinic once monthly in the Bridport Borough.

Tuberculosis. A monthly Clinic is held in Bridport Borough.

MIDWIVES.

2 notified their intention to practice in the Area during the year.

HOSPITALS.

General Medical and General Surgical.

Most of the patients go to Bridport Cottage Hospital which contains 30 beds, including 2 maternity beds.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There is an Isolation Hospital in Bridport Borough administered by a Joint Hospital Board, made up of representatives from the Boroughs of Bridport and Lyme Regis, and the Rural Districts of Bridport and Beaminster. No provision has been made for the hospital treatment of Small Pox.

CHRONIC SICKNESS

Bedford House, Bridport.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

There are 11 parishes wholly or partly with piped supplies and 7 without. The Bridport Water Company supplies the villages of Burton Bradstock, Bradpole, Bothehampton, Walditch and parts of Litton Cheney and Symondsbury. Charmouth has a piped supply which comes from 5 collecting grounds. Part of this supply is chlorinated. It is proposed to chlorinate all sources during 1939. The Charmouth water is very soft and acid in character and affects various metals such as lead and iron. Efforts have been made to reduce the softness by passing the water through hardening chambers containing lime chippings and Magnesite. These measures have been partly successful. At the peak periods Charmouth uses approximately 45,000 gallons per day. Bexington is still without a sufficient and wholesome water. Puncknowle village has an excellent supply but there is only one point for the whole village to get its water from. Steps should be taken to lead this supply through the village. The higher part of Litton Cheney village depends upon polluted sources for its water. The water problem in a Rural District is a very serious one entailing constant supervision on the part of the officials because of contamination and anxiety on the part of users of wells because of the liability of failing supplies. A considerable expenditure is necessary before the District can be said to have a wholesome and sufficient supply. It should not be an insurmountable difficulty to instal a piped supply to every village. If this were accomplished the risk of contamination and insufficiency would be considerably lessened and supervision enormously eased.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Apart from a few of the areas lying close to Bridport Borough, whose sewers take the sewage from these areas, the Council Houses, and a few private houses, there are no sewage treatment schemes in the District; the result is that all the rivers and streams are polluted. Where there is a water carriage system steps should be taken to purify the sewage before this is allowed to drop into a water course. Charmouth, Bradpole and Burton Bradstock are three villages where treatment schemes should be established. No new houses are allowed without proper means of sewage treatment and disposal. It has been decided to deal with the sewage at Burton Bradstock by means of a plant for each group of houses.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Most of these are polluted by sewage.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Mostly incombustible refuse such as tins and bottles is collected once monthly and deposited on a tip near Burton Bradstock and fired occasionally to keep rats away.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

On the 26th January, 1938, I presented a Special Report to the Council on the above matter, but the Council have deferred taking any steps towards granting assistance to the Sanitary Inspector. I consider this delay very serious especially having regard to housing, water supplies, sewage disposal and inspection of dairies.

No. of Inspections	...	1261			
No. of Informal Notices	...	28	No. complied with	...	28
No. of Statutory Notices	...	11	No. complied with	...	10

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action was taken during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938. Unknown.

The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. 13.

The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938. 2000.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken.

SWIMMING AND BATHING POOLS.

There are none.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action was taken as no complaints were received.

SCHOOLS.

There has been no change since last year's Report regarding sanitary conditions and water supply. Close co-operation exists between the head teachers and the Medical Officer of Health regarding Infectious Diseases among school children. No school was closed during the year because of Infectious Diseases.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

A Clearance Order in respect of 8 houses at Watton was confirmed at the Public Enquiry which was held on 17/1/39. For general housing needs it is proposed to build 8 houses at Whitchurch, 8 at Morcombe-lake, several in Charmouth and 8 at Watton, the latter to rehouse those displaced by the Clearance Order.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	a.	Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	74
	b.	No. of Inspections made for the purpose	...	74
2.	a.	No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		9
	b.	No. of Inspections made for the purpose	...	9
3.		No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	8
4.		No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	16

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	16
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

a.	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.			
	1.	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
	2.	No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
		a.	By owners	... .. Nil
		b.	By Local Authority in default of owners	... .. Nil

- b. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
 1. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil
 2. No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - a. By owners ... Nil
 - b. By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil
- c. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 8
 2. No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil
- d. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936
 1. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
 2. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

- a.
 1. No. of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... 6
 2. No. of families dwelling therein ... 6
 3. No. of persons dwelling therein ... 30½
 - b. No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil
 - c.
 1. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... Nil
 2. No. of persons concerned in such cases ... Nil
 - d. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil
- 5.** Total No. of new houses erected during 1938 43
 No. erected during 1938 with State Assistance.
1. By Local Authority ... Nil
 2. By other Bodies or Persons ... Nil
- No. of houses owned by Local Authority ... 83
 Approximate No. of working-class houses in District ... 1600

SECTION E.
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of Persons on Register at end of 1938...	...	...	153
No. of Dairy Farms and other dairy premises on Register at end of 1938 ...	...	...	153
No. of Dairy Farms inspected during 1938	...	...	87
No. of Inspections during 1938	...	...	87
No. of Notices served—13	No. complied with	...	13
No. of Milkshops inspected during 1938	...	...	Nil
No. of Inspections ...	...	...	Nil
No. of Notices served—Nil	No. Complied with	...	Nil

MILK SUPPLY.

No samples were taken for bacterial content nor for tubercule bacilli. One supplementary licence was granted for the sale of pasteurised milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 8 registered slaughter houses in the area.
Number of visits 186.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Bovine	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known) ...		Not	Known	
No. Inspected ...	133	27	253	369
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	28	5	114	12
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	21%	18%	45%	3%
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	7 (cows)	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	19	—	—	49
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	20%	—	—	14%

FOOD AND DRUGS.

22 Samples were taken for analysis by the County Council. 2 samples of milk were adversely reported upon, the sellers being prosecuted and fined. The articles sampled were: Butter 1, Milk 19, Oatmeal 1, Olive Oil 1. Chemical and bacteriological examinations of food are carried out at the County Council's Laboratory, Dorchester.

NUTRITION.

No steps were taken during the year to increase the knowledge of the public on this subject by means of lectures, films, etc.

SHELLFISH

There are no shellfish beds or layings in the district.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, & CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES

There were 9 cases of Scarlet Fever notified. Close co-operation with the school authorities is maintained. 17 cases of Chicken Pox, 12 cases of Mumps, 36 cases of Measles, and 16 cases of Whooping Cough were notified by the Head Teachers. The Council have taken no action with regard to the admission to hospital of such diseases as Measles, Whooping Cough and Influenza. Nor has any action been taken to provide artificial immunisation against Diphtheria, nor in the use of Measles Serum for Prophylaxis or Attenuation. There has been no change in the Isolation Hospital accommodation.

12 houses were disinfected where notifiable Infectious Diseases occurred.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-35	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	5	—	1	1	1	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was found to be necessary under the above Regulations.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS 1938

Sex	Age	Occupation
Female	33	Domestic Servant
Male	43	Independant Means

CASES NOTIFIED

<u>DISEASE</u>	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total Deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital in District	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	9	...	...	1	...	...	7	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	...	...
Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Combined Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	18	-	-	1	-	-	8	-	1	5	3	-	-	-	7	-

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES INSPECTION

Premises	Inspections	Number of	
		Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power ...	—	—	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	2	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises). ...	560	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ...	562	—	—

DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars	No. of Defects.			No. of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences {	Insufficient ...	—	—	—
	Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—
	Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.				
Total ...	—	—	—	—

